



ROBINS RevUp



We Love America
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Friday, May 24, 2002

Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

FAST exceeds goal

More than 60 percent of contracts going to small business

By Lanorris Askew
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Despite earlier speculation that the Flexible Acquisition and Sustainment Tool, or FAST, program would hurt small business, first year results and positive feedback from Capital Hill have shown the exact opposite.

"We took such a beating from folks who said FAST was going to decimate small business," said Winfield Greene, FAST program director. "Our goal was 15 percent of our dollars going to small business prime contractors. To date, approximately 60 percent of that \$127 million is going to small business."

FAST is a multi-air logistics cen-

ter, seven-year, \$7.4 billion contract designed to provide program managers in Air Force Materiel Command the capability to receive a wide variety of sustainment support for their weapon systems. This includes technical and professional weapon system services; critical, limited and contingency spares and repairs; and modifications. FAST was designed to quickly meet war-fighter needs, reduce cost and strengthen small-business partnerships.

"We are very excited about this good news," said Al Thompson, FAST chief engineer. "Our hard work is paying off in spades."

Thompson said at present there are \$2 billion in task orders and work/potential for the program.

Comments from Capital Hill have been favorable toward the Air Force and the FAST program in its continued efforts to encourage more small businesses to get

involved with defense contracting opportunities. Don Manzullo, House Small Business Committee chairman, chaired a hearing on Department of Defense procurement activities last week and had very positive words. E-mail traffic from Air Force Materiel Command quoting the House small business committee states the following:

"This one Air Force contract is a great example of what can happen when small businesses are allowed to compete equally with large corporations. The small businesses showed they were able to provide a quality product on time at a competitive price, and they won 77 percent of the contracting dollars," Manzullo said. "We still have a long way to go in battling wasteful contract bundling practices, but a trend is definitely building toward full and open competition between small businesses and large corporations."



U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Scott Covode

Marines repel from a helicopter to the roof of the old Rescue Mission building in downtown Macon Wednesday.

Robins big help for Marine exercise

By Chris Zdrakas
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Six months before 600 Marines and sailors arrived at Robins Air Force Base to begin a training exercise, one Robins planner was beginning a process that would eventually involve scores of people from organizations across Robins AFB.

Planning for the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit exercise paid off in a smooth-running operation and praise from the unit.

"The support we have received at Robins AFB has been first-rate," said Col. Richard P. Mills, commanding officer. "It's allowed us to conduct training which will be critical to our success in our upcoming deployment overseas. Our Marines and sailors are very appreciative of that."

They are welcome words to Lori

Freeman. A program analyst in the 78th Air Base Wing's Base Contingency and Treaty Planning Branch, she was the Robins coordinator for the Marine exercise known as TRUEX, which stands for Training in an Urban Environment Exercise. Glen Haisten, program analyst, backed Freeman up in the planning.

She developed a plan and gathered representatives of the functional areas needed to support the exercise, then paired them with the major functional areas from the Marine unit. They sat down together for a planning conference at Robins in April to ensure all the bases were covered and to confirm the requirements.

An advance team from the Marine unit arrived on base before the May 11 to 24 exercise began. Other early arrivals were 45

See MARINES ... Page A-5



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

The Robins Honor Guard present the colors during the Camellia Garden Memorial ceremony Thursday morning. The annual event honors those Robins community members who have passed away during the preceding year. The event also coincides each year with Memorial Day events.

C-17 workload grows with partnership

Office of Public Affairs

A key partnership for the future of the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center got stronger Tuesday with the announcement that the Boeing Co. will increase the number of C-17s sent here for inspections in 2002.

The expansion of the C-17 Flexible Sustainment contract between Robins and Boeing authorizes analytical condition inspections and home station checks of seven C-17s here this calendar year. The previous C-17 ACI plan called for three inspections at Robins during fiscal year 2002.

The increase in workload will not bring an increase in job authorizations for the center.

Since the public-private partnership began in September 2000, Robins has performed ACIs – depot level inspections that examine aircraft airframes and systems for such things as corrosion and premature wear — on five C-17s, including three in fiscal 2000 and two in fiscal 2001. All five ACI aircraft departed the center on schedule.

"The Warner Robins Air Logistics Center has enjoyed a productive relationship with Boeing on the C-17 for almost two years," said Maj. Gen. Donald Wetekam, center commander. "That we are furthering this unique partnership is good news in every way — for the center, for Boeing, and most importantly for the war fighters who fly and maintain the C-17 in the conduct of military operations worldwide. This partner-

ship expansion is one more positive signal for everyone in the C-17 community."

"Expanding work at Warner Robins is an excellent opportunity to maintain the core competencies of the ALC while leveraging the strengths of the ALC and the Boeing Co.," said Howard Chambers, Boeing vice president and general manager. "We want the Air Force to know we are committed to providing world-class service with world-class solutions."

Robins began work Monday on its first C-17 ACI of the year. The center's C-17 ACI Project Office will perform its first-ever C-17 home station check, a thorough field-level inspection, on that aircraft. A total of two HSCs are anticipated at Robins for fiscal 2002.

The seven C-17s in the expanded partnership agreement adds one aircraft to the previous plan for fiscal 2002. The pact includes a verbal agreement for an additional three aircraft in the final quarter of the calendar year.

An important aspect of the deal is the attempt to provide a continuous flow of C-17s through the center. In the past, C-17s came into Robins at staggered intervals which caused gaps in the work schedules. Since C-17 ACI crewmembers are drawn from the C-141 System Program Office, the crew would return to C-141 duties each time an ACI was finished.

The 2002 agreement plan provides continuous flow with the exception of a two-week gap between the output of the fourth ACI and input of the fifth ACI.

General Wetekam explains Wellness Day time off policy

Military and civilian employees assigned to Air Force Materiel Command units at Robins Air Force Base can be excused for the last four hours of their workday today, or the first four hours of duty Tuesday, as part of the AFMC's Wellness Day, base leadership announced.

Maj. Gen. Donald J. Wetekam, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center commander, explained the time-off policy in a letter distributed earlier this week.

Gen. Lester L. Lyles, AFMC commander, authorized installation commanders to approve excused absence from duty in conjunction with the Memorial Day weekend for members assigned to AFMC owned units. "This excused absence is in appreciation for the many accomplishments of the military and civilian men and women of the Air Force Materiel Command and to promote wellness activities, such as family recreation," Wetekam stated.

The letter explained that only minimum essential personnel necessary to provide support or services will be required to work during the four-hour excused absence windows. Personnel are encouraged to use annual leave or other authorized absences from duty (e.g., previously earned compensatory time or leave without pay) for the portion of the workday not covered by excused absence.

Mission-essential employees who can't be excused on today will be excused for the first four hours of their tour of duty with no charge to leave on Tuesday. In instances where work schedules and/or mission requirements prohibit the excused absence on either Friday or Tuesday (e.g., security, fire protection, maintenance, medical services or essential personnel), supervisors may designate an alternate day, mission requirements permitting.

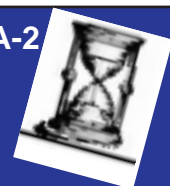
For military members who are required to work on these days, commanders may grant compensatory time off on the first working day (or days) following the holiday weekend, mission requirements permitting. Normal rules for regular pass and for leave periods apply.

Civilian employees with questions about the Wellness Day policy should contact Employee Relations at 926-0677 or 926-5802. Military members should call Lt. Col. Molly Moon, 78th Mission Support Squadron commander, at 327-7331.

Countdown to MSEP – 30 Days

See Page A-2

Robins Pride – Pick it Up, Clean it Up, Make it Shine!



Education office extends DANTES to wider audience

By Lanorris Askew
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The Robins Air Force Base Education Office, in coordination with the Macon State College Academic Testing Center, is offering the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Educational Support Test Subject Standardized Test, or DANTES, to a wider audience associated with Robins. These groups include

Department of Defense civilians, active duty dependents, dependents of DOD personnel, military retirees and dependents of other members of the civilian community. “Prior to this agreement we were only able to offer the tests to military members and DOD civilians,” said Linda Golden, base education and training operations manager. “Now this bigger group has an avenue to take these tests.” According to the education

office, the tests are similar to the CLEP which are also available. “There are 37 examinations available, 11 of which will be accepted by Macon State College in many of their degree programs,” said Golden. “Many colleges and universities accept all or some of the DANTES examinations as academic credit.” She said the examinations will be administered on Tuesdays at 9 a.m. and individuals must request the

exams in advance. “The fee for each exam is \$60 and may be paid by check, money order or credit card at the time the exam is administered,” said Golden. “The exams will be administered at the Macon State College in the Academic Testing Center, Building S, Student Life Center, Room 229. A picture identification card will be required for all test takers,” she said. Golden said maps to the test cen-

ter are available in the base education office. To get a complete listing of the DANTES subject exams and their course equivalents or to order an exam, contact the Macon State College Academic Testing Center at 471-2050. The exam takes 8-10 business days to arrive at the test center. When the exam arrives, the center will contact the test taker to give them a test date.

Robins helps Habitat

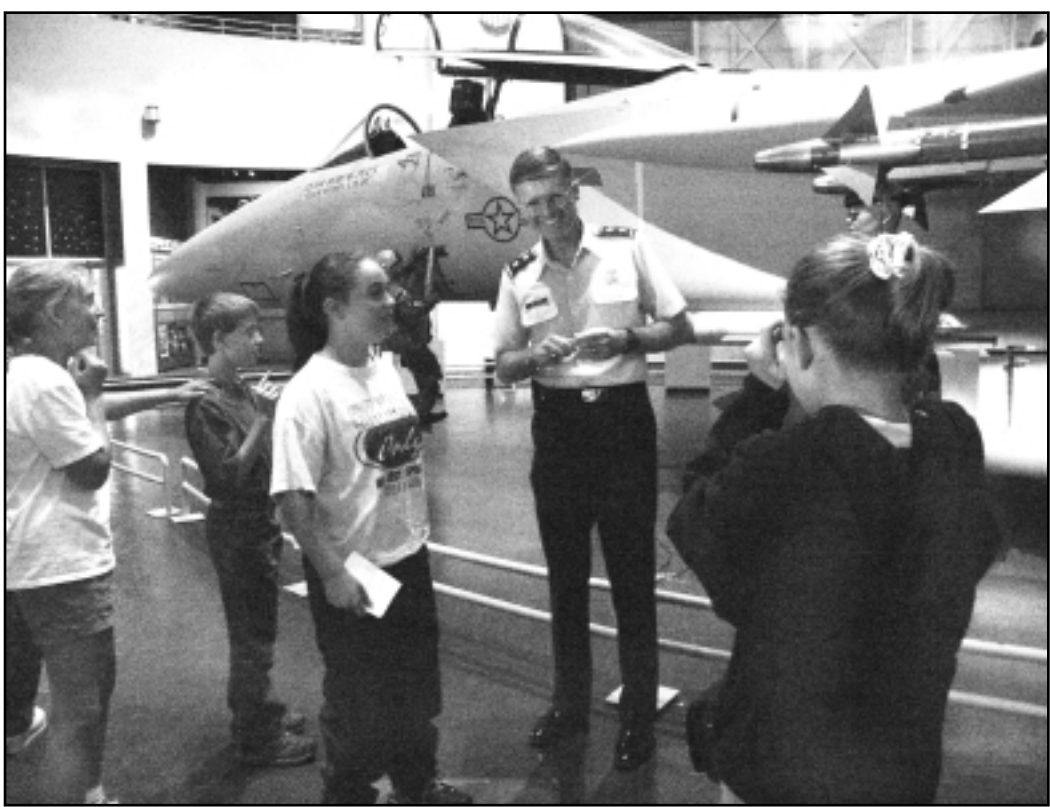
By Lanorris Askew
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For the past 11 years, numerous personnel members at the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center have given their support to the local community by helping to put roofs over the heads of needy families. These efforts have been made through volunteer work with the local chapter of Habitat for Humanity. “Robins Air Force Base is critical to our success,” said Raymond Haggard, Houston County Habitat for Humanity board president. “We have volunteers from all over the center, both military and civilian.” Haggard said the Houston County chapter was chartered in 1991 and, since its inception, 20 houses have been completed with the help of volunteers from Robins. Eight of the completed homes are located in Perry and 12 in Warner Robins. One of these homes, built in 2000, was sponsored by the base chapel. Tony Boyd, head of the chapter’s church relations committee, said the current project being supported by Robins is located on Sherman Street and was begun on May 18. Although the weather did not allow much progress, he said the team of volunteers is ready for go out again on Saturday. “We had about 15 to 20 people show up for our first day of work,” he said. Boyd said that each project takes about three months to complete depending on the number of volunteers. “The projects we start here in Warner Robins are much more apt to be finished quicker than in other areas because of the great support received from the base,” he said. “Usually about 70 percent of those volunteers who show up are base personnel.”

“Robins Air Force Base is critical to our success. We have volunteers from all over the center, both military and civilian.”

Raymond Haggard
Houston County Habitat for Humanity
board president

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit, non-denominational Christian housing organization with the goal of building simple, decent, affordable houses in partnership with those in need of adequate shelter. According to Boyd each of the families must put in 500 hours of what is called “sweat equity” into their houses. “Because the work may go very quickly if they are not able to put in their 500 hours on their own home they must work on the next project,” said Boyd. “There are so many different skills here on base and Habitat for Humanity is deeply rooted in the base community,” he said. Haggard said that no skills are required of the volunteers and there are ways other than actual manual labor that can be done. “There are base personnel involved on our boards, on various committees, donating money and lunches, and various other areas,” he said. As for the future of this partnership, Boyd said he hopes to collaborate again with the base chapel on another house and to keep the valuable asset of volunteerism going. “We work every Saturday from about 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. and anyone is welcomed,” he said. Habitat for Humanity, based in Americus, supplies the materials and building expertise. It sells the house to qualified owners at a no-interest, low-cost mortgage. The payments go back to Habitat to help build other houses in the United States and abroad. Habitat chooses potential homeowners based on need and ability to make low mortgage payments. For more information on becoming a volunteer, contact Boyd at 929-5114 Or 327-3177.



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

Wetekam addresses gifted students

Houston County fifth-grade students in the gifted program treat Maj. Gen. Donald Wetekam like a superstar, taking his picture and asking for autographs. The students visited the Museum of Aviation Wednesday to hear Wetekam and Lt. Col. Kevin Coleman, an F-15 pilot, speak about their jobs and the Air Force. Wetekam also talked to the students about how they could help Operations Enduring Freedom and Noble Eagle by being good citizens.

Tool control is everyone’s business

Robins Air Force Base Quality Office

The Air Force Material Command Instruction 21-107 contains policies and procedures for implementing and maintaining the Tool Control and Accountability Program within AFMC units, depots, etc. The goal of the program is to prevent foreign object damage to equipment and control costs. Here are some items you need to be aware of when it comes to TCAP: Personal tools are prohibited in any area. Personal items may be stored in tool kit. One personal drawer per tool kit. The drawer must be clearly marked “Personal.” Contents of tool kit are standardized by: Skill, task, work area or a combination. Tool kits are shadowed. DON’T modify the shadowing. It will INCREASE start-of-shift, end-of job and end-of shift inventory times! AFMC Form 309 must be initialed daily after completion of end of shift inventory. Supervisors will perform 90-day inventories on tool kits and annotate the 309 accordingly. The tool kit custodial receipt listing :Specifies the tool kit identification number. Contents of tool kit (Each tool in the kit will be marked with the corresponding tool kit identification number.) When markings become difficult to read, items must be remarked. Lists all tools by drawer location.

Rollaways with attached or stack-on tool kits will be secured to each other and will have the same ID number. The chit system: Accounts for tools issued to technicians when more than one technician is using the same tool kit. Allow technicians to be issued more than one tool. Missing tools: Report lost tools immediately to your supervisor and follow all lost tool procedures. Special purpose tools and equipment: A hand receipt, chit or computer tracking system is used to account for the tool or equipment that is issued. The issuing tool center and the technician to whom the tool is issued to MUST perform a joint issue and return inventory. Items containing multiple parts will have an attached inventory list. The technician signing for the issued item MUST perform all required inventory and operator maintenance actions on tools and equipment while in their possession. Hardware is not allowed in tool kits: Locally manufactured and developed tools: Each tool will be marked with a tool identification number. Engineering must approve for use each modified, developed or special tool. Procedures to use locally manufactured or developed tools not identified by tech will be defined on an AFMC Form 561, Process Order.

ROBINS BRIEFS

Film available at Robins

“Ecstasy: The End of the Dream,” a video produced by the 30th Communications Squadron, is now available to the Robins community. Call Vera Seales, Robins Demand Reduction Program manager, at 327-8408 for film availability.

Change of command

The 93rd Operations Group change of command is 10 a.m., May 31 in the multipurpose hangar.

Motorcycle class scheduled for June

There is to be a motorcycle class on June 20-21. Sign up through 78th Security Forces Pass & ID. Military personnel have priority

over all other personnel. Motorcycles will be inspected on June 20. Inadequate tire tread depth is the most common cause for being declined the opportunity to perform range exercises.

Recycle bins moved

The recycle containers that were in the Bldg. 905 parking lot have been moved to the parking lot adjacent to the old base exchange.

MPF closed for official function

The Military Personnel Flight will be closed at noon today for an official military function. Normal operations will resume on May 28, 7:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Emergency contact numbers will be available at the MPF on May 24.



Courtesy photo
Lt. Col. Mark Huber, right, accepts the 55th Combat Communications Squadron guidon, and squadron command, from Col. John D. Bailey, 622nd Regional Support Group commander, Dobbins Air Force Base.

New 5th CCG squadron stands up

5th Combat Communications Group

The group’s newest combat communications squadron stood up in the group’s backyard on May 4.

Lt. Col. Mark Huber assumed command of the unit in front of an assembly made up of members of the entire group.

“We move forward today, forging a continual cooperation between the active duty and Reserve forces,” said Col. John D. Bailey, 622nd Regional Support Group commander. Bailey officiated over the ceremony. “This day is a great effort in cooperation between the active duty and the Reserves. Both bring a lot of assets to the table.”

The incoming commander, praised the efforts of all those who were involved in the stand-up of the new squadron. “This is a testament to teamwork and dedication. This day wouldn’t have been possible without the work of the core members of the 55th, who have been working for the last few months to get started. Nor would it have been possible without the members of the 5th Combat Communications Group who went out of their way to help us. You gave us space, you gave us equipment and you gave us assistance,”

In welcoming the new squadron, Col. David Schreck, 5th CCG commander, stated, “We’re looking forward to this cooperative effort. They get the benefit of our experience and capabilities, and we get a new integrated team to help us accomplish our mission, wherever it takes us.”

Under the association, the 55th CBCS works with the other five squadrons in the 5th Combat Communications Group to obtain equipment, training and expertise needed to provide tactical communications to war fighters around the world.

When the 55th CBCS reaches full strength, it should have about 120 members.



Courtesy photo
Master Sgt. Ray Kirlin, 55th Combat Communications Squadron superintendent, forms up with other members of the 55th during the stand up on May 4.

Of those, 13 are Air Reserve Technicians, or full-time Reservists. The rest will be traditional Reservists, normally working one weekend per month, and an additional two weeks per year.

DEFY gears up for camp

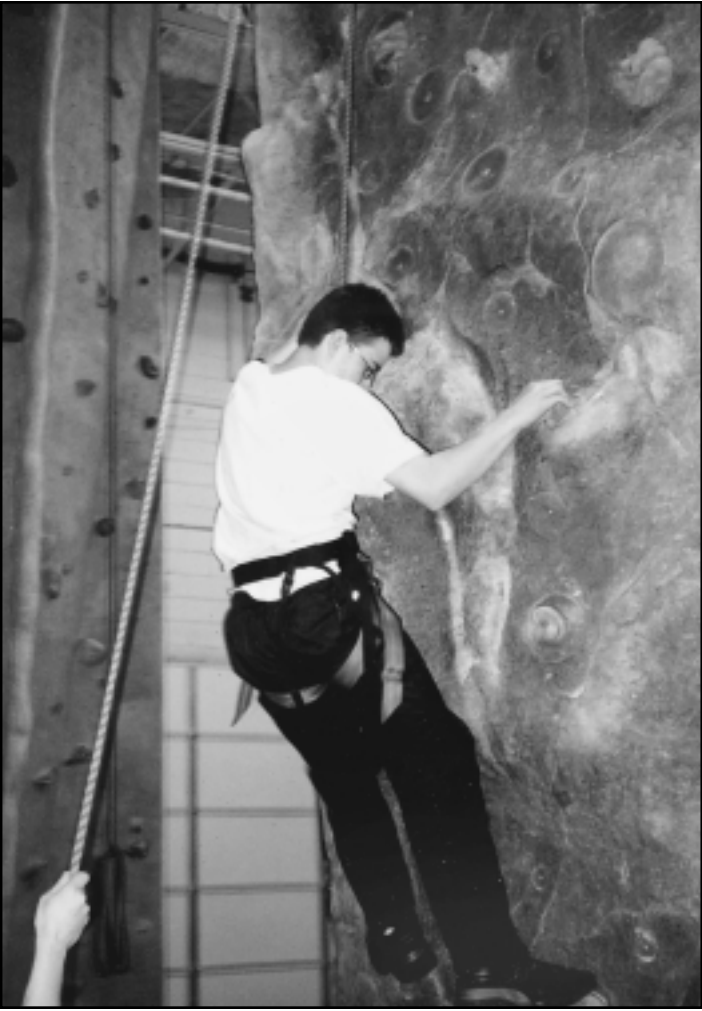
By Vera Seales
78th Medical Group

Drug Education for Youth, a program that presents the health risks associated with using drugs in a format appealing to youngsters, will be presented again this year at Robins Air Force Base, beginning with a summer camp for kids nine through 12. Dependents of Department of Defense employees, active duty or retired military personnel are eligible.

The camp, the first phase of the program, is structured in the DEFY pattern, emphasizing the positive development of mind, body and spirit. The eight-day, non-residential camp is free and will be June 10 to 18 (no camp on Sunday). June 4 is the deadline for registering at the Robins Youth Center or the Drug Demand Reduction Office, Bldg. 207 or by calling us at Vera Seales at 327-8408.

The youths will participate in classroom learning that covers goal setting, leadership and teamwork, relationships and conflict management, substance abuse prevention, gang awareness and deglamorization and self-confidence. In addition, camp participants engage in physical fitness training, local field trips and compete in a physical challenge.

The first phase also enables youth to bond with adult mentors and staff to enhance the effectiveness of DEFY’s second phase, a school-year-mentoring program that supports the training and education received in Phase I. The mentoring program focuses on individual development. During regularly scheduled activities one Saturday a month,



Courtesy photo
A DEFY participant makes his way down a rock wall climbing exercise.

mentors and staff provide tutoring and positive reinforcement through group or cluster mentoring and inter-active workshops.

DEFY also integrates parent engagement and outplacement to further aid in child development. Parent engagement involves the parents in activities throughout and upon completion of the DEFY program. DEFY program coordinators, camp directors, team leaders and mentors actively encourage parents and guardians to become involved in supporting their children’s commitment to a positive, drug-free lifestyle.

The outplacement program ensures that DEFY

graduates receive support and encouragement to become enrolled and actively participate in a follow-up program in their school or community. Programs such as Boy/Girl Scouts, Civil Air Patrol, Big Brothers/Sisters and Starbase are examples.

The National Office of National Drug Control Policy strategy focuses on a concerted efforts to give adolescents science-based information about the health risks of using drugs. The 78th Medical Group Drug Demand Reduction Program considers the DEFY program a significant measure in the ongoing battle against drug use.

Submissions to the Rev-Up are due by 4:30 p.m. Monday to be considered for publication in that Friday’s paper. Contact one of the Rev-Up staff at 926-2137 for more information. Or drop something off at Bldg. 215, Room 106.

Avionics directorate to host partnership day

Avionics Management Directorate

The Avionics Management Directorate, or LY, will host a Partnership Day Wednesday at the Robins Conference Center. The purposes of the meeting are to heighten contractor’s appreciation of war fighter’s needs and promote candid interchange on improving the acquisition process from both

government and industry perspective. In addition, LY personnel would like to discuss current initiatives — such as strategic sourcing and avionics modernization plans — and identify ways to improve customer support.

In support of the war fighter, LY provides airborne electronics hardware and software products to the U.S. Air Force, Department of Defense and allies worldwide. The

directorate manages more than 17,000 avionics items, more than 400 systems and subsystems, and has a budget that exceeds \$564 million.

The directorate serves as the center for common avionics and airborne and ground communications, precision attack System Program Office and Worldwide LANTIRN Depot. Challenges to accomplishing the mission include parts sup-

portability, system upgrades and aging systems, old and scarce test equipment, increasing requirements and limited funding

The morning will begin with registration from 7:15-8 a.m., followed by a brief social time for conferees and then several guest speakers. Transportation will be provided to the officers’ club for conferees to have lunch and listen to the keynote speaker, retired Maj. Gen. Richard

D. Smith. After lunch, conferees will be transported to the Avionics Production facility, Bldg. 640, for a tour of Robins’ organic avionics repair depot, then back to the conference center for additional speakers and panel discussions. The conference will conclude at 5 p.m.

Those interested in attending may contact Julie Freeman, at 926-9006, fax number 926-2925, or e-mail julie.freeman@robins.af.mil.

Report: Pay for some grades not keeping pace

Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Department of Defense officials have released the Ninth Quadrennial Review of Military Compensation, or QRMC, which assesses the effectiveness of military pay and benefits in recruiting and retaining a high-quality force.

Today’s force is more educated than in the past, according to the report, which found that current pay does not include a premium high enough to retain this more-educated force.

The Ninth QRMC found that compensation, particularly for mid-grade enlisted members and junior officers, has not kept pace with the earnings of comparably educated workers in the private sector. The 2002 pay raise, the largest in two decades, was based on the QRMC findings and did much to remedy the situation, said officials.

Fixing pay

The Ninth QRMC found that compensation, particularly for mid-grade enlisted members and junior officers, has not kept pace with the earnings of comparably educated workers in the private sector. The 2002 pay raise, the largest in two decades, was based on the QRMC findings and did much to remedy the situation, said officials.

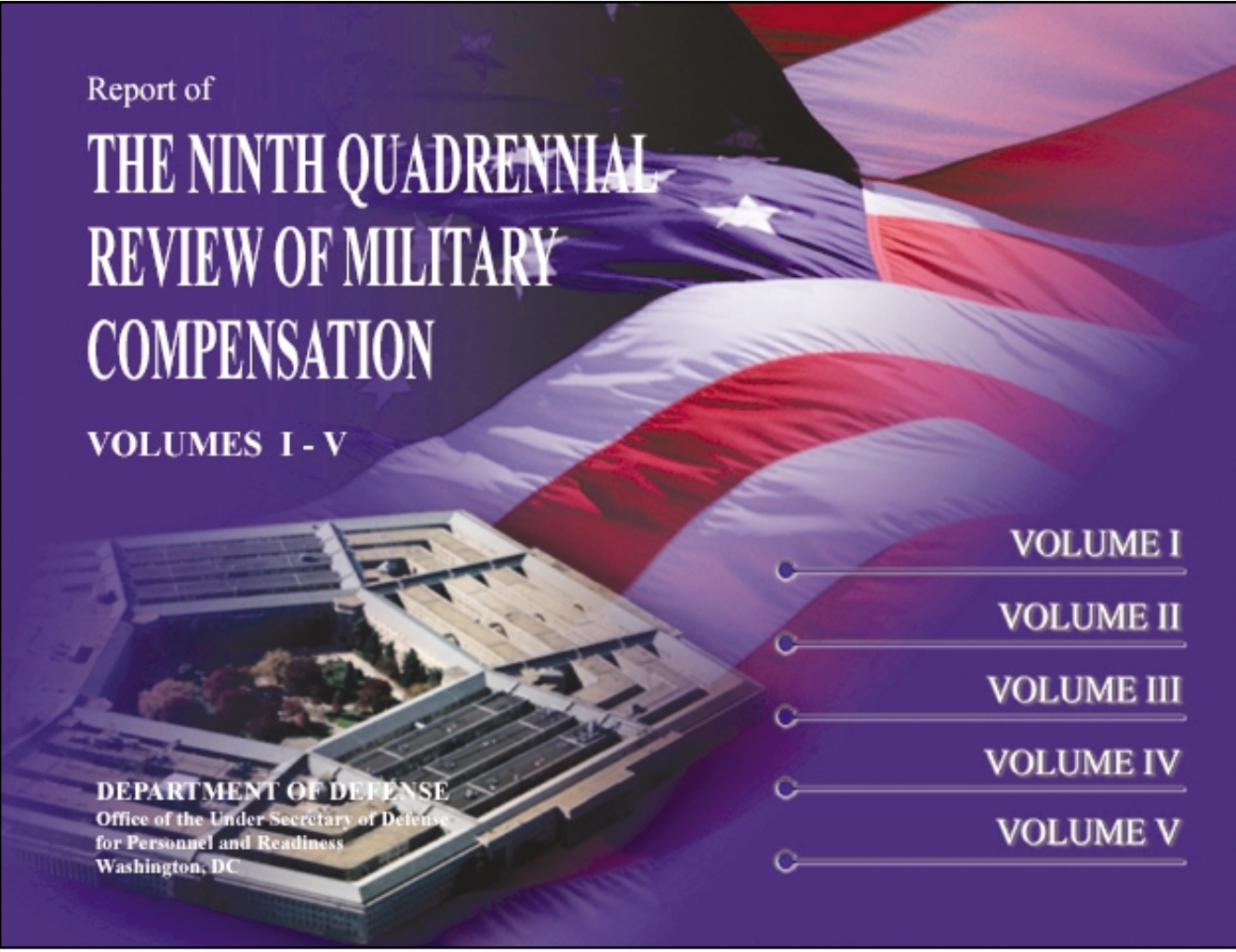
The QRMC also recommends that military pay compensate for the special demands associated with military life. To do so, the report says, pay should be set above average levels in the private sector, at around the 70th percentile of comparably educated

civilians. To meet this goal in retaining high-quality service members, additional targeted pay raises will be needed. These targeted pay raises are included in the Department’s proposed budget for fiscal 2003.

The Ninth QRMC also examined special

pays and bonuses and the financial well-being of certain segments of the military population. These included:

- Junior enlisted family income (including eligibility for food stamps)
- Earnings of military spouses
- Allowances for members assigned overseas
- Veterans’ educational benefits
- Military retiree post-service earnings.



Marines

Continued from A-1

Seabees, members of the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74 of Gulfport, Miss., which erected a tent city to house the Marines.

They built facilities for shower, hand washing, decking for tents, office space and a mess area. The 78th Civil Engineer Group provided its Warrior Air Base at the south end of Robins as the bed down area and pitched in to provide power to the camp. The 78th Communications Squadron equipped the area with telephone and landlines. They also provided additional communications capability to Bldg. 2081, a hangar the Marines shared with the 93rd Air Control Wing.

Other players and their major functions:

- 1 78th Security Forces Squadron, security issues and liaison functions
- 1 78th Services Division, morning and evening meals delivered to the campsite
- 1 78th Transportation Squadron, trucks, buses and vans
- 1 78th Logistics Group’s fuels operation, jet and diesel fuels
- 1 78th Operations Support Squadron, air base ops support and coordination of parking for 21 aircraft, including C-130s, UH-1 Hueys, Cobra gunship, CH-46 and CH-53 helicopters and Harrier jump jets.
- 1116th Bomb Wing, munitions storage and contact points for munitions
- 178th Medical Group, clinic access for Marine physicians
- 1 Warner Robins Air Logistics Center Public Affairs Office, news and media support
- 1ALC Plans and Programs, worked with hosted units to obtain aircraft parking and maintenance support
- 119th Air Refueling Group, use of Air Mobility Command apron for parking aircraft
- 1 93rd Air Control Wing, use of Building 2081 for aircraft maintenance and office space
- 1 ALC Industrial Operations, aircraft ground equipment and coordination for obtaining space for one of the Harriers to perform an engine run
- 1ALC Safety Office, 78th Civil Engineer Group Fire Department and ALC Environmental Management Directorate, coordination and approval for hot refueling and other safety concerns

Freeman said TRUEX was the largest planning effort of her 10-year career.

“It was larger in scope than I initially thought,” she said. “There was so much involved, but it worked because everyone was willing to pitch in

with true Robins spirit and do whatever needed to be done.”

First Lt. Dan McSweeney, the Marine unit’s public affairs officer, termed the support “tremendous.”

“The base has done a great job accommodating us and looking for how to go beyond the basic level of support,” he said. Among the examples he cited were the food — “of consistently high quality,” and flight line security — “Security Forces Squadron very accommodating of our operational needs.”

“Having the exercise at Robins was a unique situation because of the characteristics of the base,” he said. “It was much different from TRUEX in Savannah at a Reserve base, which was pretty much deserted. This place (Robins) is very busy with both civilian and military personnel. Everyone took time out of their schedules to consider our training needs, and it has certainly been appreciated.”

He said he had met “some nice people” in ALC public affairs, and that other members of his unit have referred to specific individuals in their functional areas with whom they have developed a rapport.

McSweeney said the exercises have been going well. They are geared to developing the skills the Marines and sailors need for a variety of missions.

In the past, the missions have included peace support operations in Kosovo in 2001; rescuing Air Force pilot Capt. Scott O’Grady, who was shot down in Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1995; and Operation Provide Comfort, which supported the Kurdish people in Turkey and Northern Iraq in 1993.

Safety chief: supervisors should demand safety

By Master Sgt. Ron Tull
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — With the Air Force’s annual safety campaign, “101 Critical Days of Summer,” just around the corner, the Air Force’s acting chief of safety is strongly suggesting that commanders and supervisors take a direct approach in briefing subordinates.

“Demand safety,” said Col. Greg Alston. “Instead of asking people to be safe, simply demand it. Tell them that it’s their duty. Tell them their unit expects them back and that their country is counting on them. Remind them that they volunteered to be here, and they should own up to that responsibility.”

The 101 critical days start today as the Memorial Day weekend kicks off, and end Sept. 3, the last day of the Labor Day weekend.

Alston borrowed from a recent message by Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper, which comments on the annual safety campaign.

“It tells us we should apply on-duty operational risk management thinking to our off-duty activities, and it explains to us just how important we are to the war effort,” Alston said.

That effort, he said, calls for healthy and energetic men and women to prosecute the nation’s war against terrorism.

“Now more than ever we all need to remain able-bodied to face future challenges,” Alston said. “We need to demand safety behavior from ourselves, because we are America’s best line of defense. We are America’s last line of defense.”

While worldwide contingencies make this year a little different, the colonel said many of the safety concerns are the same as in years past. As usual, off-duty vehicle accidents are at the head of the list.

“We have had a spike in off-duty motor vehicle accidents this year,” he said. “Nearly every accident comes down to losing control of the vehicle.

“Many times alcohol or fatigue are involved, but nationwide studies also show that people are buying bigger,

more powerful vehicles with handling characteristics that they may not be prepared for,” Alston said.

Whatever the cause, fatalities as of the first weekend in May are higher in 2002 than in years past. The individual most at risk is enlisted, male and age 24 or younger, said Alston.

“The old guys need to keep an eye on the young guys, impart their wisdom to them,” he said. “You’ve heard the expression ‘monkey see, monkey do?’ Well, there’s ‘airman see, airman do’ and ‘lieutenant see, lieutenant do.’ Young Air Force members look to their supervisors as role models.”

The “old guys” need to think about safety too. Besides preventable mishaps involving alcohol or fatigue, sports injuries often take their toll.

“People start doing things that they’re not in shape to do, whether it’s boating, hiking or mountain climbing,” Alston said. “If a member is out for a broken leg or worse — if they get out and get killed — their unit has less combat capability. And needless to say, we can’t afford that to happen right now.”

Marines

Continued from A-1

Seabees, members of the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 74 of Gulfport, Miss., which erected a tent city to house the Marines.

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- 1 78th Transportation Squadron, trucks, buses and vans
- 1 78th Logistics Group’s fuels operation, jet and diesel fuels
- 1 78th Operations Support Squadron, air base ops support and coordination of parking for 21 aircraft, including C-130s, UH-1 Hueys, Cobra gunship, CH-46 and CH-53 helicopters and Harrier jump jets.
- 1116th Bomb Wing, munitions storage and contact points for munitions
- 178th Medical Group, clinic access for Marine physicians
- 1 Warner Robins Air Logistics Center Public Affairs Office, news and media support
- 1ALC Plans and Programs, worked with hosted units to obtain aircraft parking and maintenance support
- 119th Air Refueling Group, use of Air Mobility Command apron for parking aircraft
- 1 93rd Air Control Wing, use of Building 2081 for aircraft maintenance and office space
- 1 ALC Industrial Operations, aircraft ground equipment and coordination for obtaining space for one of the Harriers to perform an engine run
- 1ALC Safety Office, 78th Civil Engineer Group Fire Department and ALC Environmental Management Directorate, coordination and approval for hot refueling and other safety concerns

Freeman said TRUEX was the largest planning effort of her 10-year career.

“It was larger in scope than I initially thought,” she said. “There was so much involved, but it worked because everyone was willing to pitch in

with true Robins spirit and do whatever needed to be done.”

First Lt. Dan McSweeney, the Marine unit’s public affairs officer, termed the support “tremendous.”

“The base has done a great job accommodating us and looking for how to go beyond the basic level of support,” he said. Among the examples he cited were the food — “of consistently high quality,” and flight line security — “Security Forces Squadron very accommodating of our operational needs.”

“Having the exercise at Robins was a unique situation because of the characteristics of the base,” he said. “It was much different from TRUEX in Savannah at a Reserve base, which was pretty much deserted. This place (Robins) is very busy with both civilian and military personnel. Everyone took time out of their schedules to consider our training needs, and it has certainly been appreciated.”

He said he had met “some nice people” in ALC public affairs, and that other members of his unit have referred to specific individuals in their functional areas with whom they have developed a rapport.

McSweeney said the exercises have been going well. They are geared to developing the skills the Marines and sailors need for a variety of missions.

In the past, the missions have included peace support operations in Kosovo in 2001; rescuing Air Force pilot Capt. Scott O’Grady, who was shot down in Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1995; and Operation Provide Comfort, which supported the Kurdish people in Turkey and Northern Iraq in 1993.

Safety chief: supervisors should demand safety

By Master Sgt. Ron Tull
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — With the Air Force’s annual safety campaign, “101 Critical Days of Summer,” just around the corner, the Air Force’s acting chief of safety is strongly suggesting that commanders and supervisors take a direct approach in briefing subordinates.

“Demand safety,” said Col. Greg Alston. “Instead of asking people to be safe, simply demand it. Tell them that it’s their duty. Tell them their unit expects them back and that their country is counting on them. Remind them that they volunteered to be here, and they should own up to that responsibility.”

The 101 critical days start today as the Memorial Day weekend kicks off, and end Sept. 3, the last day of the Labor Day weekend.

Alston borrowed from a recent message by Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper, which comments on the annual safety campaign.

“It tells us we should apply on-duty operational risk management thinking to our off-duty activities, and it explains to us just how important we are to the war effort,” Alston said.

That effort, he said, calls for healthy and energetic men and women to prosecute the nation’s war against terrorism.

“Now more than ever we all need to remain able-bodied to face future challenges,” Alston said. “We need to demand safety behavior from ourselves, because we are America’s best line of defense. We are America’s last line of defense.”

While worldwide contingencies make this year a little different, the colonel said many of the safety concerns are the same as in years past. As usual, off-duty vehicle accidents are at the head of the list.

“We have had a spike in off-duty motor vehicle accidents this year,” he said. “Nearly every accident comes down to losing control of the vehicle.

“Many times alcohol or fatigue are involved, but nationwide studies also show that people are buying bigger,

more powerful vehicles with handling characteristics that they may not be prepared for,” Alston said.

Whatever the cause, fatalities as of the first weekend in May are higher in 2002 than in years past. The individual most at risk is enlisted, male and age 24 or younger, said Alston.

“The old guys need to keep an eye on the young guys, impart their wisdom to them,” he said. “You’ve heard the expression ‘monkey see, monkey do?’ Well, there’s ‘airman see, airman do’ and ‘lieutenant see, lieutenant do.’ Young Air Force members look to their supervisors as role models.”

The “old guys” need to think about safety too. Besides preventable mishaps involving alcohol or fatigue, sports injuries often take their toll.

“People start doing things that they’re not in shape to do, whether it’s boating, hiking or mountain climbing,” Alston said. “If a member is out for a broken leg or worse — if they get out and get killed — their unit has less combat capability. And needless to say, we can’t afford that to happen right now.”

ADR is alive and well in WR-ALC

WR-ALC Labor Relations

Recently, the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center Labor Relations Office was able to extend agreements on two of our local alternative dispute resolution processes, Grievance Mediation and Pre-Filing Unfair Labor Practice Dispute Resolution.

The grievance mediation process is still available for those employees who choose this under the negotiated grievance procedure. The procedure is informal and allows an opportunity for the parties to resolve the grievance at the lowest practical level.

Grievance mediation has been successful and experienced a resolution rate of 63 percent in its first year.

“To elect grievance mediation all an employee has to do is sign the mediation box on the Air Force Materiel Command form 913,” says Reggie Butts, labor relations officer.

In addition, on May 1, 2001, we reached an agreement to extend the ULPADR Pre-Filing process for another six months.

The purpose of the agreement is to provide an alternative dispute resolution process that affords the parties the opportunity to avoid unfair labor practice, or ULP, disputes and to resolve those disputes that do arise without the necessity of filing formal ULP charges.

To date, the process has proven successful, officials said.

The intent of the pre-filing process, as in grievance mediation, is to resolve potential ULP issues at the lowest practical level.

Unlike the formal procedure, which can be costly and time consuming — taking anywhere from six months to one year to resolve a complaint — the pre-filing process substantially reduces the amount of time spent researching, presenting evidence, attending hearings, etc, which is costly to both parties.

Since inception of the process in June 2000 there have been approximately 228 potential complaints filed and only two have been filed formally with the Federal Labor Relations Authority, or FLRA. Currently, the labor relations office is experiencing a resolution rate of approximately 84 percent, said labor relations office officials.

The pre-filing ULP procedure is a three-step process, with the first step beginning at the lowest practical level and allowing for elevation to the Commander or his designee if not resolved at one of the lower levels. Roger Harris, AFGE Local 987 Alternate Dispute Resolution point of contact, works with Donna Stewart, Employee Relations Dispute Resolution specialist, to coordinate and arrange meetings between the union and the activity where the potential dispute exists.

If not resolved in the pre-filing process the option is available to file the complaint formally to the FLRA.

Both processes have proven to be beneficial and improved communications between management and the union through open discussion.

Based on prior success, the parties are confident that these processes will remain successful in the future, according to labor relations office officials.

TRICARE has service options

TRICARE Office

To receive the full benefit under TRICARE Prime and to ensure continuity of care, Prime members, including 78th Medical Group enrollees, must have their non-emergency health needs directed by their primary care manager and approved by the health care finder. This includes all referrals to specialists, hospitalization or any care they may require off base or while traveling away from home.

When Prime members do not coordinate their health care through their primary care manager, they make a choice to exercise the TRICARE point of service option. By making that choice, TRICARE Prime members are subject to higher deductibles and cost shares.

TRICARE Prime beneficiaries who are treated for an emergency should notify their primary care manager within 24 hours of their emergency treatment in order to receive the full Prime benefit.

Point of Service deductibles and cost shares	
Annual deductible	Cost share
Individual \$300	50 percent of the TRICARE
Family \$600	Maximum Allowable Charge

TRICARE Prime beneficiaries who are enrolled with the 78th Medical Group can contact their primary care manager (or the PCM on-call) 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at 327-7850. If calling from out of the area, they can call 800-537-2137.

Any questions regarding TRICARE benefits may be directed to the regional beneficiary services line at 800-444-5445. For local assistance, the Robins Air Force Base TRICARE Service Center is located in Bldg. 700, and can be reached at 329-3000 or 327-8340.

Freedom isn't free

Maj. Gen. Donald Wetekam
WR-ALC commander

On a clear Tuesday morning some eight months ago, freedom was brutally attacked without warning. Many innocent lives were lost, heroes were born and the world was changed in an instant. But the terrorist attacks planned to tear our country apart only bound us closer together.

At this very moment, around the world, thousands of men and women in our Armed Forces are delivering on that commitment and putting their lives on the line to defend our freedom. Several hundred of those are members of our Robins Air Force Base family.

I am humbled by the heroes of the past, who held this nation's destiny in their hands. But I am also inspired by the courage of the men and women who are, at this moment, willing to die to keep freedom alive.

This Memorial Day, perhaps more than any in recent times, we are reminded that our freedom is dearly bought and the price is high. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld said, "While the loss of our people is our greatest sorrow, it is our people who serve — our Total Force — that is our greatest strength."

As you read these words, thousands of our forces are deployed on the front lines. More than 5,000 are in Afghanistan, 1,000 in Kyrgyzstan, and more in Yemen, the Philippines, Qatar and Columbia.

As President Bush said, "The price of freedom is high, but never too high."

Join me, and all fellow Americans, for the Memorial Day National Moment of Remembrance on May 27, at 3

p.m. Please pause for one minute to remember the Americans who died serving this country and pray for those who defend us today.

Author unknown

I watched the flag pass by one day.
It fluttered in the breeze.
A young Marine saluted it,
And then he stood at ease.
I looked at him in uniform
So young, so tall, so proud,
With hair cut square and eyes alert
He'd stand out in any crowd.
I thought how many men like him
Had fallen through the years.
How many died on foreign soil?
How many mothers' tears?
How many pilots' planes shot down?
How many died at sea?
How many foxholes were soldiers' graves?
No, freedom isn't free.

I heard the sound of taps one night,
When everything was still
I listened to the bugler play
And felt a sudden chill.
I wondered just how many times
That taps had meant "Amen,"
When a flag had draped a coffin
Of a brother or a friend.
I thought of all the children,
Of the mothers and the wives,
Of fathers, sons and husbands
With interrupted lives.
I thought about a graveyard
At the bottom of the sea
Of unmarked graves in Arlington.
No, freedom isn't free.
© 1997-2001 David Merchant
Updated 17 May 2001

Deafness not something to laugh at

Within days of the release of "Blackhawk Down," the movie by director Ridley Scott, people across America were talking about it and how it was the most accurate portrayal of battle scenes yet produced by Hollywood. The gritty reality of the movie with the feel of being inside the battle drew many people to the theater to see for themselves what might have actually happened on that day in 1993 in Mogadishu.

The events were based on reality. The reality was stark. Eighteen dead Americans, 500 dead Somalis, numerous Americans wounded, one briefly held captive. I went to see the movie, knowing that it would be moving and evoke strong emotions, as young American men were placed in a situation that would ultimately be a fight for their lives.

One particular scene stays with me weeks after seeing the movie. Two young men are hunkered down behind barricades, trying to defend a perimeter point. They are armed with M-16s and are engaged in taking and returning fire. One soldier, crouched next his buddy, instructs him not to "shoot that thing right beside me, I'm half-deaf as it is." After another burst of incoming fire, the buddy returns fire, with the M-16 barrel just inches from the head of the first soldier. At a break in the firing, the second soldier asks a question to the first ... he looks at him, and indicates that he can't hear anything. The expression on his face is puzzlement; he can't hear what is being said to him as he has suffered severe acoustic trauma from the estimated 160 decibel Peak Pressure of noise from the M16. The audience around me laughed at his confusion. I cringed.

Throughout the remaining scenes in the movie, the young soldier who sustained a significant, and likely permanent, hearing loss becomes the comic relief of the movie. His buddies try to pantomime instructions to him, he is unable to hear himself

talk, and risks exposing the soldier's position by yelling to his comrades. His confusion and frustration at suddenly becoming essentially deaf is heartbreaking, and could have cost him his life.

For several days after watching the movie I wondered, how would the audience have reacted had the soldier been suddenly blinded by an accident? Would they have laughed as they watched him stumble and grope to his destination? I think not. I think he would have had the sympathy of the audience, and they would have hoped for his safe extraction. Because hearing loss is hidden, essentially unrecognized by others, it is not realized by most that it remains one of the largest chronic health problems for Americans. Since hearing is such a part of our daily experience, it is taken for granted until it is lost. Yet hearing is what links us to our family, our friends, our environment, our pagers, our cell-phones, our microwaves, our music, our work, our fun. I think you get my point. Hearing is what ties us into our world, our interests, and our relationships.

Ear damage from noise exposure is the second leading cause of hearing loss in America. The number one cause is natural aging. We can't do anything about the aging process of our bodies, but we can do something about noise exposure and limit the effect that noise has on our hearing. Noise exposure is pervasive in our society, starting with many common toys that emit sounds louder than the 85dBA exposure limit recommended by the National Institutes of Occupational Safety and Health. In other words,

Hearing is such a part of our daily experience, often the sense of hearing is taken for granted until it is lost.



Lt. Col. Angela Williamson
Director, Hearing Conservation Center

we don't allow workers to be exposed to sounds louder than 85dBA without the use of ear protection, yet many everyday sounds such as leaf blowers, snowmobiles, power tools and popular children's toys have been found to emit sounds up to 135dBA. The month of May has been designated "Better Speech and Hearing Month" and allows us time to promote hearing health, and to promote awareness of noise in our daily life as well as the potentially devastating effects it can have on our communication abilities.

The wounded depicted in the movie Blackhawk Down were numerous. But uncounted, and essentially unnoticed, were the soldiers and Marines who suffered permanent, noise induced hearing loss that will affect the quality of their lives for the rest of their lives. Take your hearing ability seriously and don't allow yourself to become the butt of the joke because of a disability that is unseen. Turn it down, put on ear protection when engaged in noisy hobbies or work, and think about the toys you buy for your children and grandchildren and the potential harm that they may be cause to their hearing. We each get only one set of ears. Protect them so they work well as long as you need them, and you'll need them forever. It's really not funny.

Commanders' Action Line



Col. Bonnie Cirrincione
Commander 78th Air Base Wing

Action Line is an open door program for Robins Air Force Base personnel to ask questions, make suggestions or give kudos to make Robins a better place to work and live. Please remember that the most efficient and effective way to resolve a problem or complaint is to directly contact the organization responsible. This gives the organization a chance to help you, as well as a chance to improve their processes.

To contact the Action Line, call 926-2886 day or night, or for quickest response e-mail to one of the following addresses: If sending from a military e-mail system select, Robins Commanders Action Line from the Global Address List. If sending from a commercial e-mail account (AOL, AT+T, CompuServe, Earthlink, etc.), use action.line@robins.af.mil. Readers can also access Action Line by visiting the Robins AFB homepage on the World Wide Web at [https:// www.mil.robins.af.mil/action-line.htm](https://www.mil.robins.af.mil/action-line.htm).

Please include your name and a way of reaching you so we can provide a direct response. Action Line items of general interest to the Robins community will be printed in the Rev-Up. Anonymous Action Lines will not be processed.



Maj. Gen. Donald Wetekam
Commander Warner Robins Air Logistics Center

Condition of Bldg. 905

Q: I attend graduate classes at night over in Bldg. 905 and have to comment that the condition of the building is deplorable. In the downstairs men's lavatory five out of eight commodes are unusable, being covered by a plastic bag. The single handicapped stall is blocked and completely darkened due to poor lighting. The bathroom lighting is horrible with only three light bulbs working. If this is the condition of the men's bathroom, I wonder what the women's is like?

The condition of the rest of the building is also declining. There is a general lack of lighting in the halls (part of this may be design), and the classrooms are becoming harder and harder use.

Overall, the cleanliness of the facility is lacking. Bldg. 905 is supposed to be one of the premier buildings on base. If this is how we treat and show our "best" to visiting faculty, staff and guests, then what is our worst? One only has to wonder.

A: Col. Cirrincione responds: Thank you for bringing this to the attention of the 78th Civil Engineer Squadron. The commodes have been repaired; 78th CES has ordered a new

urinal to replace the broken one and the lights have been replaced by the facility manager. The women's restroom was visited at the same time and everything was working.

The restrooms are being cleaned twice daily Monday through Friday. The carpet is cleaned every six months and vacuumed once a day, except weekends, in the common areas. When the 78th CES visited Bldg. 905, the building was well lit and lighting appeared sufficient; however, the 78th CES will perform a lighting survey to determine if more lighting is needed. The cleaning contractor has been instructed to notify the facility manager when commodes are found unusable.

Please report any future problems to the facility manager or to the administration office in Bldg. 905. Rest assured, although funding for facility sustainment is far below the requirements, the 78th CES will provide the best available service once notified of the situation.

Early out rumors

Q: There have been some rumors going around that due to the reorganization back to maintenance there will be a number of early

outs offered to civilian employees. This reorganization is Air Force wide and some of my friends at Hill Air Force Base, Utah, have heard the same rumors; and in fact, said that they will be offered the early out in June and can separate in October. From the rumors I have heard this early out will be for overhead employees only, but again this is only rumor. Any information you have on this would be appreciated.

A: Maj. Gen Wetekam responds: At this time we have only requested VSIP/VERA authority for the organizations that are presently under A-76 Study. We have recently been informed that the maintenance reorganization has been put on hold. However, if an early out does take place the Civilian Personnel Office will ensure it is well publicized in the Rev-Up and on the Web to all employees.

The Civilian Personnel Office has applications available for those employees who would like to submit for future consideration for separation incentives. These forms are located in Bldg. 215 room 305.

We appreciate your interest in VSIP/VERA. If you have additional questions, you may contact Bill Lemons at 926-

3805, ext. 211.

Informed retirement

Q: I turn 55 in August and in the past when my co-workers retire they were given an opportunity to meet with people in personnel and various other organizations to help them make informed decisions about their retirement. I have tried for the last two years to get some opportunity to do this and keep being told that this isn't done anymore. I am really disappointed. I'm not even getting a gold watch. I've given you 37 hard years of my life and the thanks I get is "well we don't do that anymore." I'd appreciate some kind of response to this because I'd like to be able to make an informed decision when I retire and you are not affording me that opportunity.

A: Maj. Gen. Wetekam responds: I regret that you have not been successful in obtaining needed information to assist in your retirement planning. Any employee may contact the Benefit and Entitlement Unit to receive retirement counseling that will assist in the planning of one's retirement. You may obtain counseling by contacting your servicing specialist at 926-5307 to schedule an appointment.



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CloseUp

Friday, May 24, 2002

Rev-Up B-1



U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp

The children of Robins Elementary School put on the eight annual "We Love America" program for the Robins Air Force Base community Monday.

The central theme of the production was a patriotic view through the eyes of a young boy who struggled to determine who was his hero.

As the story of the young boy, whose father was deployed, unfolded, students performed musical selections paying tribute to American heroes.

The Reserve Generation Band provided music for the children.

During the finale, public servants from the Warner Robins community as well as the military were honored as heroes of Robins.

"We Love America" is an annual event put on by Robins Elementary School in honor of those who serve the United States.

The event included a fly-over by the 93rd Control Wing E-8C Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System aircraft.



Robins Elementary School first graders perform "Oh how I hate to get up in the morning."



Kayla Carter, Alexis Hewitt and Anita Forrester, Robins Elementary School fifth graders, perform "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy."



Brig. Gen. Larry Stevenson, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center vice commander, Maj. Gen. Donald Wetekam, WR-ALC commander, and Sheri Wetekam enjoy the "We Love America Program."



Jonace Marshall and Tiffany Smith, fourth graders, sing "Take me out to the ball game."



Pre-K students Lizzy Gravot, Rebekah Shaw, Vaylor Brown and Elizabeth Allen wait for their cue before their performance to "Stars and Stripes Forever."



Students portray immigrants coming to America seeking freedom and a better life.

Memorial Day schedule

Note: The following list represents the reduced schedule for the 78th Services Division on Friday.

Base Restaurant Main Restaurant - Food Court closes at 1 p.m. Snack Bars close at noon Mobile food trucks will not run	Bowling Center No Change
Officers Club Lunch - Soup & Salad only for lunch Normal evening dining Wellston Closed Membership Breakfast will be rescheduled	Private Animal Clinic Closed at 12:30 p.m.
Enlisted Club No Rockers Buffet - Bar menu available lunch Press Box closed Fri & Sat Night - Bar Menu available	Fitness Center Friday 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday normal hours Sunday normal hours Monday 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Pizza Depot No Change	Youth Center Friday - open Youth closes at 5 p.m. School-age care - normal hours (afternoon care offered in open rec side of Youth Center) Saturday normal hours
Golf Course No Change	CDC East Friday - 6:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
	CDC West Friday - normal hours
	Smith Community Center Friday - 7:30-11:30 a.m.

TV SCHEDULE



These shows will air on Cox Cable channel 15 and Watson Cable channel 15.

Friday

Robins Report: 8 p.m. – News from around base.

Around Robins: 8:30 p.m. – On this week’s Around Robins there will be a feature piece on the relationship between Feagin Mill Middle School students and military assigned to the 93rd Air Control Wing. Mary Ann Gahhos, ergonomics program manager, talks about the work being done to incorporate ergonomic practices into the workforce culture at Robins. Geoff Janes takes an in-depth look at the new FitLinxx system at the base fitness center. FitLinxx Program Manager Kandice Turner discusses how it works and how commanders will be able to use it in the future.

Inside Robins: 9 p.m. – This week’s Inside Robins has an interview with Col. David Schreck, commander of the 5th Communications Group. Schreck discusses how the 5th CCG plays into contingencies, mission since 9/11 and use of Reserve forces.



Sunday

12:30 p.m. - Robins Report

1 p.m. - Around Robins

1:30 p.m. - Inside Robins

Monday

Noon - Robins Report

12:30 p.m. - Around Robins

1 p.m. - Inside Robins

MOVIE SCHEDULE


All shows begin at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$3 for 12 and older, \$2 for ages 5-11.
Visit the movie schedule online at <http://www.robins.af.mil/services/Events/TheaterSched.htm>.

Today — Panic Room (R)

Starring Jodie Foster and Kristen Stewart.

A divorced woman in her 30s and her daughter are caught up in a cat-and-mouse game inside their new New York brownstone when three burglars come looking for a hidden cache of cash. Mother and daughter hide in the “panic room,” a secret room designed for just such a purpose, but still end up fighting for their lives. (violence and language)



Saturday — Murder By Numbers (R)

Starring Sandra Bullock and Ben Chaplin.

A tenacious homicide detective, Cassie, and her new partner, Sam, become pitted against two high school students in an ingenious battle of wits as they try to solve a murder case. (violence, language, a sex scene and brief drug use)



Sunday — The Sum Of All Fears (PG-13) Matinee Show at 1:30 p.m.

Starring Ben Affleck, Morgan Freeman, Bridget Moynahan, Alan Bates, James Cromwell, Jason Antoon, Michael Byrne, Colm Feore, Philip Baker Hall, Ciaran Hinds, Ken Jenkins, Bruce McGill, Marie Matiko, Ron Rifkin and Live Schreiber.

European neo-Nazi terrorists get their hands on a lost nuclear device, and set about on their plans to use it at the Super Bowl. The plan is to disguise the attack as being caused by Russia, in the hopes of rekindling the Cold War. Luckily, young CIA analyst Jack Ryan is on the case. (violence, disaster images and brief strong language)

SERVICES ANNOUNCEMENTS

Smith Community Center 926-2105

Grab hold of those bed knobs and start running at the third annual bed race, which will be held on May 31 at 11 a.m. Entry fee is \$15 per five-member team and includes event T-shirts. Sign up at the community center.

Aero Club 926-4867

With Summer Safety Cash In, Robins Aero Club members can expand their knowledge and win \$250 in flying hours or club merchandise. The aero club promotes the safety of its members and their passengers in flight. Members need only attend safety briefings at the club to be entered in a drawing at the end of each meeting. Bi-monthly safety meetings offer information on flight safety as well as a chance to network with other aero club members.

Members have eight chances to win. Second time winners of the drawing will receive \$10 in Services Division dollars to be used at participating services facilities.

The next safety meeting will be held on June 18 at 6 p.m. For more information on Summer Safety Cash In or becoming a member of the Robins Aero Club, call 926-4867.

Information, Tickets and Travel 926-2945

Rally up for the 2002 Squadron Challenge with Robins Air Force Base and the Macon Braves. Through July, military and civilians of any squadron or division can plan group trips to Macon Braves games for a chance to be the best. First sergeants and designated members of various units may purchase tickets from Information, Tickets and Travel. The group with the most participation wins an exclusive VIP party with the team, including giveaways and tickets to future Macon and Atlanta Braves games. Tickets are \$3.50 each. Call Information, Tickets and Travel or ask your first sergeant for more information.

ITT will host a yard sale 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on June 15 in conjunction with the community center’s annual Peach Festival. Additional yard sales will be held on July 13 and on Aug. 3. Tables can be rented for \$7 and set-up starts at 7 a.m.

The Macon Knights Arena Football 2 will host a military night on May 31. Stop by ITT for discounted tickets.

Save money by making vacation plans with the Armed Forces Vacation Club. A seven-day condominium lease is \$234 per week. Locations are available around the world. For more information, call 800-724-



9988 or go online at www.afvclub.com. The Robins AFB AFVC installation number is 79.

Enlisted Club 926-4515

Press Box is open for dinner 6-9 p.m. every Friday and Saturday. Come and enjoy Lorraine lasagna for \$7.95 today and Saturday, stuffed baked chicken in wine sauce for \$7.95 on May 31 and on June 1. Reservations are welcome.

Come enjoy Latin disco on Saturday, 9–1 p.m.

Watch NASCAR every Sunday, 1–4 p.m.

The club will open at 5 p.m. Monday for Memorial Day.

Officers’ Club 926-2670

The center will be closed Monday in observance of Memorial Day.

Outdoor Recreation 926-4001

Base pools will open Saturday and will be free of charge to people with a valid base ID or pool pass. For a complete listing of pool hours, classes and rules, go to the services Web site at www.robins.af.mil/services.

Swim lesson registration is underway at equipment rental, Bldg 986. Lessons will take place at Crestview pool. Classes will be held June 11–21; June 25–July 5; July 9–19 and July 23–Aug. 2. Cost for “Mommy & Me” toddler class (ages 2 and 3 years) is \$30 per child. For beginner, intermediate and advanced classes (ages 4-13 years) the cost is \$40 per child.

Library 327-7379

The base library will hold a children’s summer reading program themed “Where in the world are you reading?” June 4 through July 31. Special meetings will be held every Tuesday at 10 a.m. for the children enrolled in the program. Guests from around the world will speak each week about their different languages, customs and cultures. This nine-week program will culminate with an ice cream party at the library on Aug. 6 at 2

p.m. Drawings at the party will include a bowling birthday party certificate and Robby the Robin beanie toys.

Children must read at least 10 age-appropriate books and attend at least four meetings at the library to be eligible for the drawings. To register, visit the library, located in Bldg. 905.

Pizza Depot 926-0188

Mama is celebrating Pizza Depot’s 14th birthday with a party on June 11 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sample new pizza and have a piece of the cake. Also come by to sign the big birthday card and for a chance to win prizes.

Family Childcare 926-6741

In continual support of Operation Enduring Freedom, the co-payment for extended-duty care been extended to Sept. 30. The EDC provides care for children of active duty and Department of Defense employees required to work late, work weekends, change shifts or are called in to support deployments. It will not be a substitute for regular care, but is an approved intermittent childcare arrangement for those times when parents must work outside their normal schedule. To enroll, parents need a written verification from their supervisors and arrange an interview with an FCC coordinator to discuss childcare needs, provider qualifications and program procedures. For more information, call the FCC office.

Skills Development Center 926-5282

Receive a 10 percent discount on full-service custom framing at the skills development center with a coupon on page 25 in the May Services Edge. This offer is good through July 31.

Teen Center 926-5601

The following activities are scheduled at the center: operation night hoops at 6:30 p.m. and a power club meeting at 7:30 p.m. today; open recreation, 6-11 p.m. Saturday; center will be closed Monday; open recreation, 2-7 p.m., Tuesday and Wednesday; open recreation, 2-7 p.m., and power club meeting, 5 p.m., Thursday; operation night hoops, 6:30 p.m. and movie night, 8 p.m. on May 31.

Youth Center 926-2110

Dance is scheduled for May 31, 6–9 p.m. Cost is \$3 for members and \$5 for nonmembers. Children 8 years old and younger must be accompanied by a parent. The center will be closed Monday in observance of the holiday.

FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

Robins Air Force Base Family Support Center-sponsored classes, workshops, and seminars are open to all Team Robins Plus personnel and their eligible family members. Absences from duty sections to attend FSC offerings are the responsibility of the employee to coordinate with his/her supervisor. Because room assignments are subject to change, specific room numbers will be confirmed at the time of registration.

The FSC is located on Ninth Street in Bldg. 794, across the street just before the Robins Enlisted Club. Hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. For additional information, or to make a reservation, please call 926-1256.

Center closed

The Family Support Center and Family Services loan closet and Airman’s Attic will close at 1 p.m. today, to attend a squadron function. Normal services will resume on Tuesday at 7:30 a.m. at the FSC and 10 a.m. for Family Services.

Pre-TAP briefing

A pre-TAP briefing will be conducted Tuesday, 1-3 p.m., Bldg. 905, Room 250. The Transition Assistance Program is offering a briefing for personnel and their spouses who are within one to three years of separation or retirement. This session is designed to help individuals get a head start on long-range retirement and separation planning, benefits and other information. To register, call the center at 926-1256.

Bundles for babies

The Air Force Aid Society will conduct a Bundles For Babies class Wednesday, 10 a.m. to noon, Bldg. 700, Room 180. The class is specifically designed to assist new parents.

This program is open to all active duty Air Force members and their spouses, who are expecting a child, regardless of rank or number of children in the family.

To register, call the center at 926-1256.

Interviewing 103

An interviewing workshop will be conducted Thursday, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Bldg. 905, Room 138.

This session is designed to assist in an overview of how to determine worth and know if the salary is negotiable, including how to and when not to factor in benefits packages. Strategies and tips are provided to assist in overcoming discomfort and empower applicants in gaining a better salary.

To make a reservation for this workshop, call 926-1256.

Financial workshop

The Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Middle Georgia will present a workshop on money and credit management on May

31, 1-4 p.m., Bldg. 905, room 127.

Information on credit management, debt reduction and consumer rights are presented along with help in developing budgets and savings plans. To register, call the center at 926-1256.

Computer resource center

The Family Support Computer Resource Center is open to all Team Robins Plus personnel and their eligible family members. The following programs are available in the center: America’s Job Bank; AMF Scholarship Resource Network; EZ-DOT; DOD Job Search; Discover; Federal Job Bank; Internet Access; Please Understand Me & Vocational Interest Profile Inventory; Personal Financial Management; Salary Assessor; SF171/OF612; WinWay Resume; and WORD97.

All computers have laser printers. Fax machine available for short notice resumes. Schedule time in advance by calling 926-1256 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and bring own disks to save resume or federal application. Plain white paper is provided.

Childcare for PCS

The Air Force Aid Society, in conjunction with the Family Support Center’s Relocation Assistance Program and the Family Childcare Program, provides a program on childcare for members in permanent change of station status. The intent of this AFAS program is to provide moms and dads the opportunity to have their child cared for while they are getting ready to leave a base or arriving at a new base.

Twenty hours of care per child is paid by the Air Force Aid Society for active duty Air Force. Contact Cindy Graver or Royce Smith at 926-1256 for additional information.

Employment assistance

The Employment Assistance Program provides ways for military spouses, military family members, and displaced Department of Defense civilian personnel to identify skills and interests, plan careers, improve job search skills, and increase opportunities for employment or a career change.

With increased access to employment opportunities and information, this program will help people get a head start on a new career.

For more information about this program or to schedule an appointment, call Doug Jones, career focus manager.

Employment assistance

There is a Georgia Department of Labor Veterans Service Specialist in the Family Support Center to assist veterans or personnel within 180 days of leaving the military with their job search. To schedule an appointment, call Jack Tooley at 929-6801.

Strong man visits fitness center



U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp

Above, William Kazmaier, talks to fitness center members about strength training on May 16. Kazmaier was visiting Robins as part of the ongoing series of events for May Fitness Month at the Robins Air Force Base Fitness Center. He also visited the youth center.

Air Force race car makes stop at Robins



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

Maj. Gen. Donald Wetekam peers into the display version of the Air Force's NASCAR racer. People in the area were able to view the car when it was at the Museum of Aviation on May 15.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Fitness Center

926-2128

Earn the Presidential Sports Award for individual participation in daily fitness. Anyone 6 years of age and older can receive this personalized certificate of achievement from the President of the United States, letter of congratulations from the leadership of the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, and blazer patch signifying the sport or fitness activity in which the award is earned. An additional patch for activities involving the whole family is also available. Eligible sports include 70 activities from aerobics to wrestling. Pick up a personal fitness log at the fitness center.

Robins Lanes

926-2112

Join a summer sports league and receive a Brunswick Vis-a-ball and single ball bag imprinted with any NASCAR or Major League Baseball team. Choose from the following leagues: youth league for ages 5 through 18 years from June 3 to Aug. 5 for \$11.50 per week, or youth and adult league from June 1 to Aug. 17 for \$9 per week. Call the bowling center for more details.

●●●

Beat the heat with bowling center summer savings. Get a stamp for every snack bar, pro shop or open bowling purchase more than \$2. Collect five stamps for a chance to win up to \$500. Two hundred dollars in cash prizes will be awarded on July 5 and 19 and on Aug. 2 and 16.

The grand prize of \$500 will be awarded on Aug. 30. Participants must be at least 18 years of age. There is no limit to cards that may be turned in. Call the bowling center for complete details.

Sign up now for the summer Peterson Point league. Teams consisting of three players will compete every Tuesday. A league meeting will begin on June 5. For more information, call the center.

●●●

Preferred Plus! members come out on Sundays and bowl free 1-3 p.m.

Pine Oaks Golf Course

926-4103

Link Up 2 Golf sessions begin on June 3 at 6 p.m. This comprehensive beginner golf class is sponsored by the PGA of America and includes everything from group lessons to course etiquette. Receive this package worth more than \$400 for only \$99 per person. No federal endorsement of sponsor intended.

●●●

A junior golf academy for ages 7 through 17 years is slated for June 3-6 and 10-13. Cost of \$50 includes four-day clinic, weekly play days and end-of-the-year party.

●●●

A senior golf championship tournament will be held June 8-9 with net and gross divisions. This event is open to all active duty and retired military 50 years of age and older. Call the golf course to register.

FITNESS MONTH

During May Fitness Month points will be awarded for various fitness events and daily workouts. For every 20 points earned, participants will be entered in drawings for various prizes such as a trip to Jamaica or the Bahamas. Pick up a punch card at the center.

See the Services Division Web site at www.robins.af.mil/services for a complete calendar of events. May Fitness Month is sponsored in part by Gatorade, LifeFitness and Super Clubs. No federal endorsement of sponsors intended.

✓ Today – 11 a.m., "Training for real life" movement clinic

✓ Tomorrow – 9:30 a.m., Kids' aerobics

Weekly challenge – Do something active with a family member or friend on Memorial Day

✓ Tuesday – 11 a.m., Lower back care

✓ Wednesday – 1 p.m., Periodization in the weight room

✓ Thursday – 10 a.m., Women and weights

✓ May 31 – Sports Day (call the fitness center for schedule of events); 11 a.m., Bed Race

Safe homes can be life-saving investments

Fire Prevention Section

Homes are where most people tend to feel safe. There they are secure and have their needs met. However, as much as home is a safe place to be, dangers always lurk if home safety is not well practiced.

Bedrooms

Smoking in bed is a hazzard. One of the major causes of home fires is the fatal combination of cigarettes and bedding. This is also true of upholstered furnishings as well as cause injuries or even death to people. Barred windows and doors should be releasable from the inside.

Heat sources should be kept at least 3 feet away from bedding, furniture and other combustibles. This is especially true for space heaters during cold months. If clothes closets are lighted, make sure there is a guard over the bulb so it will not come into contact with clothing or other combustibles. Never use a bulb that is over rated for the light fixture. This could overload the circuit or short-circuit the light fixture and cause a fire inside the closet area. Smoke detectors should be installed in hallways or rooms adjacent to all sleeping areas. Make sure they are tested monthly and batteries are changed every six months.

To make a home extra safe, install a fire extinguisher in any room. Always practice and have a plan of escape that entails at least two ways out of any room. Practice E.D.I.T.H-Exit Drills In the home, this will ensure all family members are safe and accounted for in case of an emergency.

Bathrooms

The temperature setting on the water heater should never be above 120 degrees Fahrenheit. Every year the fire department and hospital receives calls of children being scalded by hot water causing serious injuries and sometimes death. Never leave a child unattended in a bathroom, especially in the bathtub. Keep all medications, bathroom cleaning chemicals and daily hygiene items out of the reach of children If possible, store them in a child resistant cabinet. Some homes have built-in wall heaters or floor vents. Do not place any combustibles within 3 feet of heaters and do not block vents with combustible items. Remove towel racks that were installed above heaters and don't use heaters to dry lingerie, stockings or any other clothing.

Do not smoke while using aerosol cans of hairspray or deodorants since most of these items are flammable or combustible. This could cause serious burn injuries or, at least, a bad hair day.

Living room

Fireplaces and wood burning stoves should be properly installed with a screen and vented to the outside. Never burn trash or Christmas trees in a fireplace, and keep Christmas trees and other combustibles away from a working fireplace. Keep oversize ashtrays available for smokers and use them. When discarding smoking materials, make sure they are cold safe before disposal.

Kitchen

The kitchen is the most vulnerable area for home fires. Unattended cooking is the leading cause of all home fires. In case a grease fire occurs, turn off the heat; place a lid over the pan, if able to do so safely; use a fire extinguisher, if available; and make sure someone dials 911 to report the fire. Never remove a burning or hot pan from the stove.

Leave in place and allow to cool down, and make sure everyone is out of the home and accounted for.

Loose fitting clothing should never be worn around the stove or oven. If clothing does catch fire, remember stop, drop, and roll.

Make sure all pot and skillet handles are facing in.

Keep all appliance cords in good condition and do not allow them to hang down the cabinets. Doing this will prevent children from pulling on the appliance cords and thus prevent serious injury or death.

When not in use, unplug all appliances in the kitchen.

Garage

Keep all flammables, chemicals and combustibles in proper containers. Never place gasoline or any other flammable or combustible in a container that is not designed for such an item.

Never mix chemicals and other flammables together.

Use gasoline only for its intended purpose. Fuel is not intended for cleaning.

Dispose of oily rags in proper metal containers with a metal lid.

Renters should have renters insurance. This will protect household goods and the structure itself.

For more information about keeping a safe home, call the fire prevention section at 926-2145.

ROBINS BULLETIN BOARD

Cub Scouts need volunteers

The Cub Scouts are looking for volunteers to assist with the summer day camp at Camp Benjamin Hawkins, June 3-7. The summer day camp provides an opportunity for Cub Scouts from the Big Indian Creek District of the Central Georgia Council to participate in a variety of scouting activities. These activities allow the cub scouts to earn belt loops and to complete requirements for Cub Scout rank.

Volunteers are needed with certification as medical technicians and life guards. There is also a need for adults 18 years of age or older to help as den leaders. Volunteers may help for a day or the entire week. Permissive TDY IAW AFI 36-3003, Table 7 Rules 31 and 32 is authorized.

If interested, contact Senior Master Sgt. Patrick Dreer at 329-8099, or e-mail him at patrick.dreer@afrc.af.mil.

Dixie Crow tuition assistance available

The Dixie Crow Chapter of the Association of Old Crows has recently established a \$250 enlisted tuition assistance grant. The grant is for active duty enlisted personnel stationed at Robins Air Force Base in the rank of E-4 and above

who are pursuing a degree related to electronic warfare or information superiority.

The program is intended to complement the Department of Defense Tuition Assistance Program and the Air Force Boot Strap program. Applications may be picked up at the base education office in Bldg. 905.

Mail applications to Dixie Crows, P.O. Box 1331, Warner Robins, Ga. 31099-1331.

Deadline for summer semester applications is on June 15.

IMA appreciation day

A lunch will be held in appreciation of all activated IMAs as well as all the IMAs, Reserve and Guard unit members who have volunteered to be on Mandays to support Robins. The lunch is at noon on June 7 at the Robins Park Pavilion Area.

Museum of Aviation needs volunteers

The Museum of Aviation Flight and Technology Center is seeking volunteers to meet and greet visitors daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Sunday. Tour guide opportunities are available as well as special function opportunities. For additional information, please contact museum director of protocol and volunteers, Judy Blackburn at 926-4242 or 926-6870 for additional information.

LEAVE/TRANSFER

The following people have been approved as participants in the leave transfer program.

● **Marcia Roach**, Support Equipment and Vehicles Management Directorate. Point of contact is Robin Shaw, 926-7697.

● **Lisa Sheffield**, Technology and Industrial Support Directorate. Point of contact is Ralph Mannis, 926-1287.

● **Ralph King**, Technology and Industrial Support Directorate. Point of contact is Al Watkins, 926-4107.

● **Sherry McPherson**, Technology and Industrial Support Directorate. Point of contact is Al Watkins, 926-4107.

Employee-relations specialists at 926-5307 or 926-5802 have information and instructions concerning requests to receive or donate annual leave. To have an approved leave recipient printed in the Rev-Up, directorates should send information to Rebecca Yull via fax at 926-9597, or e-mail at rebecca.yull@robins.af.mil. Submissions run for two weeks.



Courtesy photo
Celine Dion sings on stage with the Band of the Air Force Reserve aboard the USS Truman on May 2. The taped show will air at 9 p.m. Saturday on CBS.

Band salutes American military with Celine Dion

Air Force Reserve Command

The Band of the Air Force Reserve shares the stage Saturday night with top name entertainers in a CBS television special “Rockin’ the USA – A Salute to the U.S. Military.” Taped on May 2 aboard the aircraft carrier USS Truman, the special airs at 9 p.m. on CBS affiliates nationwide.

The band performed a 10-minute patriotic opener for the taping and then came back on stage for the finale to accompany Grammy award-winning singer Celine Dion and the entire cast in “God Bless America.”

“The taping session lasted two hours and the broadcast version is only an hour, so we don’t know if they used any of the opener,” said Maj. Alan Clark, commander of the Band of the Air Force Reserve.

“But I’m sure they’ll use the finale with Celine and the rest of the cast.”

The cast includes entertainers Clint Black, Lonestar, Jessica Simpson, Marc Anthony, the Miami Sound Machine and comedian Jeff Foxworthy. Cuba Gooding Jr. emcees.

During breaks in the taping for set changes, the Dixie Express component of the Band entertained the more than 5,000 military and civilian guests in the audience, including the Secretary of the Navy Gordon England.

“This band is incredible,” quipped singer Dion during her only rehearsal with the band just hours before the actual taping. “It’s very emotional to be on stage and perform with them.”

The two days the band spent in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., where the carrier was in port temporarily, were fast and furious.

Arriving late on May 1, the band went directly to the carrier for an afternoon rehearsal, had dinner on board ship and performed for a dress rehearsal that evening. Another component of the band, the Brass Quintet, also performed during the Navy’s Sailor of the Year banquet that evening.

The next morning, the band provided cer-



Courtesy photo
The Band of the Air Force Reserve performs aboard the USS Truman on May 2.

emonial music for a multi-service swearing-in ceremony. More than 150 recruits recited their oath, led by the secretary of the Navy.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the band headed back to the carrier to rehearse with Celine Dion.

It was dinner on board ship again and then time for the final taping session. With additional commitments waiting for them on May 3, the band headed back to Robins AFB at the end of the taping.

“It meant a lot to represent the Air Force and the Air Force Reserve in this military salute – we knew we had to get it right,” Clark said.

“I couldn’t be more proud “I’m extremely proud of the band and all the work they put into the performance. With less than a week’s notice about the show, they put the opener together and learned Celine’s version of God Bless America., and they nailed it!”

“*This band is incredible. It’s very emotional to be on stage and perform with them.*”
Celine Dion
Singer

CHAPEL SERVICES

Catholic Masses are celebrated at the chapel each Saturday at 5:30 p.m., Sunday at 9:30 a.m., and on Holy Days of Obligation at noon and 5 p.m. and Monday through Friday at noon.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is on Saturday from 4:30-5:15 p.m.

Catholic CCD classes for ages 4 through adult meet every Sunday from 11 a.m. until noon — from September through May — at Robins Elementary School.

Protestant services take place every Sunday at: 8 a.m. inspirational; and 11 a.m. traditional.

Protestant religious education classes for people of all ages meet every Sunday — from

September through May — from 9:30-10:30 a.m. in Bldg. 905.

Jewish service time is each Friday at 6:15 p.m. at the synagogue in Macon.

Islamic Friday Prayer (Jumuah) is each Friday at 1:30 p.m. in the chapel annex Rooms 1 and 2.

Community fellowship and Bible study is held at 5:30 p.m. Wednesdays for the following groups: adult mixed, adult singles, adult women, youth and elementary school children. Free dinner is served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Bible study follows.

The chapel helps with any spiritual needs that arise. For further information, call the chapel at 926-2821.

A view from the back ‘SOAR’ crews take tankers to the edge

By 1st Tisha Wright
tisha.wright@robins.af.mil

Imagine flying a multi-million dollar aircraft in the black of night, without lights, and only 35 feet above another multi-million dollar aircraft. Sound dangerous? Sound scary? This is only a small part of the 19th Air Refueling Group’s special operation air refueling capability. The “Black Knights” are one of only two tanker units in the U.S. Air Force that perform special operations air refueling — a vital component to any special operations mission.

“It’s like driving down the highway at 100 miles per hour with your eyes closed,” said Maj. Brian McLaughlin, Chief of Special Operations for the 19th ARG. “Special operations air refueling involves minimal lighting, minimum communication, in all types of weather, worldwide and in the dark.”

A special operations air refueling aircrew is made up of an aircraft commander, co-pilot, navigator and boom operator. All crew members are specially qualified for the operations’ rendezvous procedures.

“Special operations are unconventional and high risk is associated with the mission,” said McLaughlin. “Without special operations air refueling, special operations missions couldn’t be done.”

The SOAR missions are a challenge for the aircrew because of lighting and communication limitations.

“As the navigator, you are the mission manager,” said 1st Lt. Matt Dietz, SOAR

planner for the 99th ARS. “Timing the refueling point with no communication and coordinating changes is a challenge.”

The nature of special operations missions is also a challenge, according to Dietz.

“Special operations missions are fluid,” he said. “They are constantly changing based on real-time events in the fighting.”

Teamwork is critical for the mission’s success, said McLaughlin.

“It’s the quiet professionalism of the crew that makes these operations work,” he said. “Everyone understands the significance of these missions—the crew bends over backwards to accomplish the mission and get home safely.”

“The mission can change minute by minute,” said Dietz. “It’s incumbent upon everyone in the crew to make it happen.”

The boom operator also operates under difficult conditions during a SOAR mission.

“Night refueling is harder because of depth perception problems,” said Staff Sgt. Denim Beeler, boom operator and non commissioned officer in charge of special operations for the 19th Air Refueling Group. “Without normal lighting, there is a big difference.”

The boom operator controls the boom to refuel the receiving aircraft through a small receptacle.

“It’s like shooting a bow and arrow into a target during the day verses closing your eyes and shooting at it,” said Beeler. “You’ve got a guy 35 feet from you and all you can

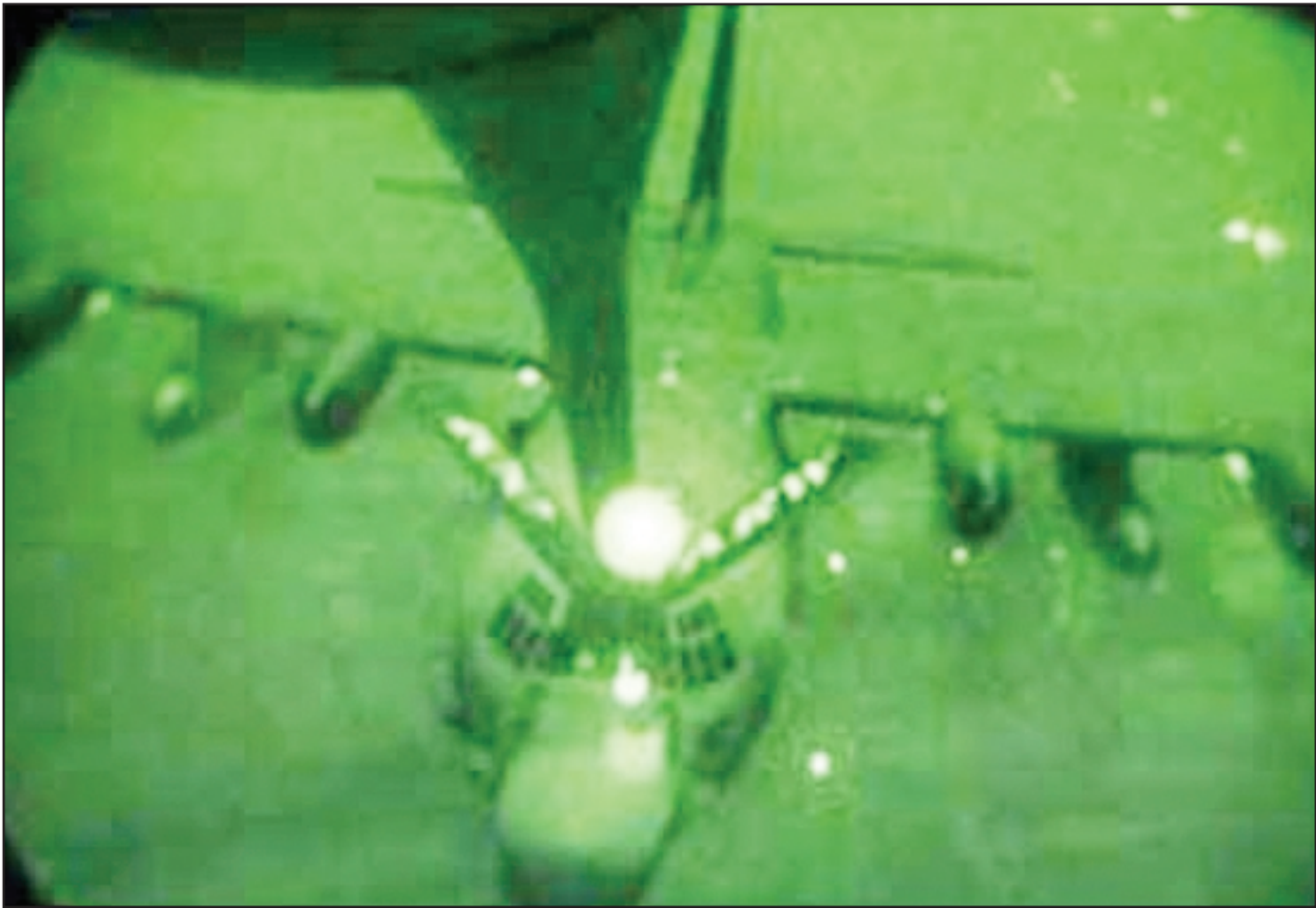


Photo courtesy of DOD Combat Camera

A KC-135 refuels a C-130 during a special operations air refueling mission. The photographer uses night-vision goggles to take the picture.

see is a little light on the roof of their aircraft.”

Beeler recognizes the high level of responsibility affiliated with SOAR missions.

“The responsibility we have is incredible,” he said. “One wrong move can cause the boom to go through the receiving aircraft’s windshield.”

Maj. Don Long, assistant operations officer for the 99th ARS, knows first hand how dangerous SOAR missions can be. While he was deployed in the forward operating location he and his crew had to work expeditiously and decisively to complete a SOAR mission and get home safely, he said.

“Special operations missions don’t always go as planned,” said Long. “It’s a dynamic environment and you have to be flexible.”

“We were pressed for time on a high priority sortie and another crew preflighted the jet for us,” he said. “When we started down the runway, one navigation unit wouldn’t read our present location, but we assumed the problem with the jet would align itself in the air.”

The aircraft’s navigation unit tells the pilot where they are in reference to other aircraft and the ground. It also tells the pilot if the aircraft is straight and level.

After an hour and a half the unit still wasn’t working, he said.

“After we turned off our lights, and had no communication the second navigation unit went out,” said Long. “We had no attitude information and no climbing or descending info.”

The crew did have an atti-

tude director indicator so the co-pilot did have some attitude information, but there was no information about our heading or other aircraft, he said.

At this point, the crew was within 20 minutes of meeting the receiver aircraft, according to Long.

“It was nearly impossible to meet the receiver aircraft at one point in space without any attitude information,” said Long. “So we contacted the reliability tanker.”

A reliability tanker is backup tanker aircraft, in the area of the operations, in case of an emergency.

“The crew of the reliability tanker talked us to them and we formed up our aircraft against theirs,” said Long. “Then we gave them the gas needed to refuel our special operations aircraft.”

Long and his crew stayed

with the reliability tanker during the SOAR mission and followed the reliability tanker home to safety, he said.

“If the reliability tanker wasn’t there I don’t know how we would have gotten home,” said Long. “It was a very hectic mission, but everyone provided input to make it work.”

There is no question about the significance of special operations air refueling, according to McLaughlin.

“Current operations rely heavily on special operations air refueling,” he said. “Future operations will most certainly require SOAR missions as well.”

Special operations air refueling is a choreographed dance in the night, and everyone is doing their part to make it happen, he said.

Education in the sky

U.S. Air Force photo by 1st Lt. Tisha Wright

The assistant principal at Northside High School Mark Wilcox gets a first-hand look at what it’s like to be a boom operator with instruction from Senior Master Sgt. Jim Morman, chief boom operator for the 99th Air Refueling Squadron. Wilcox was one of 24 educators from Houston County to participate in the flight this month.



‘Pro Super’ tells 19th MXS success story

By 1st Lt. Tisha Wright
tisha.wright@robins.af.mil

The Robins Air Force Base non commissioned officer of the year and production superintendent for the 19th Maintenance Squadron is shining the light on one of the U.S. Air Force’s best kept secrets.

Tech. Sgt. Greg Porter is responsible for all aspects of maintenance operations in this one-of-a-kind maintenance organization that saved taxpayers more than 300 million last year.

“There is no other organization like us in the Air Force,” said Porter.

Every aircraft in the Air Force inventory periodically goes through a major maintenance overhaul called program depot maintenance. Program depot maintenance for the C-5 Galaxy aircraft is located here, however Robins AFB is not a home station for the C-5.

The Galaxy also undergoes isochronal inspections every



U.S. Air Force Photo

Greg Porter, production superintendent or “pro super” for the 19th Maintenance Squadron here, stands proudly behind the squadron’s work.

420 days at their home station.

The 19th MXS has combined the program depot maintenance with isochronal inspections and other mandatory maintenance in

one location. What’s unique about the arrangement is that programmed depot maintenance

The mysterious 19th Maintenance Squadron

In Omnia Paratus— Ready For All Things

Lt. Col. Bob Lewit
Commander
19th Maintenance
Squadron



Tucked inside hangar 125, one of the oldest buildings on base, and performing maintenance on the largest aircraft on base, resides one of the smallest units on base, the 19th Maintenance Squadron. As part of the 19th Air Refueling Group Black Knights, the 75 Bluesuiters assigned to the MXS directly support HQ/AMC and customers at Dover and Travis AFB by performing maintenance on all active duty C-5s while they are at Robins for their Programmed Depot Maintenance (PDM).

The 19 MXS is the only unit of its kind in the Air Force. It’s primary mission is to decrease downtime and provide mission ready aircraft by completing isochronal inspections, various other maintenance procedures and field level repairs on each Active Duty C-5 inducted into PDM. Working hand-in hand with their Depot partners, the 19 MXS warriors identify and correct an average of 1,600 discrepancies per aircraft and save home stations approximately 4,700 premium maintenance hours. All work is performed on a strict non-interference basis. That is, no 19 MXS actions may hinder the depot flow. Being co-located with PDM allows the MXS to take full advantage of resources within the ALC and effectively utilize the Team-Robins concept. Over half of the 19 MXS serviced C-5s go home from depot with zero workable discrepancies in the aircraft forms. As a result of their tireless and diligent efforts, 19 MXS serviced jets normally return to fly their first mission within about 8 days which effectively increases fleet availability by approximately two C-5s annually.

The 19 MXS represents AMC’s interests while aircraft are at depot.

Additionally, an MXS maintenance team accompanies each aircraft back to home station to provide and receive feedback. This program is a great success and not only provides a feedback vehicle for the owning units, but also allows the MXS to better understand home station requirements and fine tune their processes to better meet those needs.

Although all C-5s transit PDM at Robins, the MXS only performs maintenance on the active duty jets for Dover and Travis. A recent AMC Tiger Team study noted that AFRC and ANG C-5 times for return to first flight following PDM were quite extensive and exceeded 30 days. The study went on to note the difference between the AMC and AFRC/ANG cycle time is partially due to 19 MXS personnel to accomplishing inspections and performing field-level repairs while the AMC aircraft are in depot. Additionally, the study recommended the 19 MXS accomplish isochronal inspections on AFRC and ANG C-5 aircraft during their PDM cycle. This recommendation is being carefully reviewed at the appropriate levels for possible incorporation into the 19 MXS mission.

The 19 Maintenance Squadron is only 75 people. They are a small force with a huge impact! The seemingly mundane, day to day efforts of the men and women of the MXS effectively add Airlift to America as we continue our war against terrorism.

KNIGHTLY NEWS BRIEFS

Black Knights shine at ALS
Staff Sgt. Ron Beasley, of the 19th Operations Support Squadron, received the John Levitow Award upon graduation from Airmen Leadership School this month. The award is presented to the school’s top graduate. SrA Ed Parker, guidance and control technician in the 19th Aircraft Generation Squadron, received the academic award at the same graduation. Parker had the highest academic average in the class.

Black Knights win quarterly awards
Capt. Eugene Croft, pilot for the 99th Air Refueling Squadron, won the company grade officer of the quarter for the 19th Air Refueling Group. Master Sgt. Timothy Richardson, of the 19th Aircraft Generation Squadron, was named the senior non commissioned officer of the quarter. Staff. Sgt. Michael Swanson, of the 19th Operation Support Squadron received the award for non commissioned officer for the quarter and SrA. Nathan Mallet of the 19th Maintenance Squadron was named airman of the quarter.

AMC celebrates 10 year anniversary
June 1 marks the 10 year

anniversary of the creation of Air Mobility Command. The new command combined airlift and aerial refueling capabilities for the first time in Air Force history.
“As the Air Force became more expeditionary and the demands on rapid global mobility became greater, it became clear that centralized command and control of this nation’s airlift and tanker forces was essential to enable the rapid, efficient movement of U.S. forces and their equipment to any location on the planet,” said Gen. John W. Handy, Commander of Air Mobility Command.
The command is an essential force multiplier for the current global war on terrorism, according to Handy.
“AMC’s global reach is tested daily,” he said. “You, the men and women of our great command prove that air mobility is a national asset—responding to emergencies and protecting our national interests around the globe.”
Safety day slated for June 3
The 19th Air Refueling Group safety day will be held June 3 at Lake Tobesofkee near Macon. Various booths will provide safety informa-

tion and water craft will be available for use. All families of Black Knights are welcome to attend.
Two selected for UPT
1st Lt. Devin Pietrzak and 1st Lt. Matt Dietz, navigators from the 99th Air Refueling Squadron were recently selected for specialized undergraduate pilot training.
Young Leadership Award winners named
Capt. Rick Kallstrom, maintenance supervisor for the 19th Aircraft Generation Squadron and Staff Sgt. Jeff Gombos, maintainer for the 19th Aircraft Generation Squadron were recipients of the Airlift Tanker Association’s Young Leadership Award.
“This honor recognizes demonstrated leadership ability and expresses my confidence in them becoming future leaders within Air Mobility Command,” said Col. Barbara Faulkenberry, 19th Air Refueling Group commander.
The ATA mission is to ensure that American military forces continue to have the air mobility capability required to implement U.S. national security strategy. The association is a world-wide organization that includes active duty,

19th MXS remembers Sept. 11



U.S. Air Force photo by 1st Lt. Tisha Wright
Senior Airman Mark Rodriguez puts the finishing touches on the “Let’s Roll” mural in the 19th Maintenance Squadron here. Rodriguez is the resident artist for the squadron.

reserve and retired military personnel, as well as civilian and industrial supporters of the air mobility mission. For more information contact Lt. Col. John Martins, commander of the 19th Operation Support Squadron at 327-3101.
Black Knight wins ‘logi’ officer of the year
The Middle Georgia Chapter of the Logistics Officer

Association presented Lt. Col. Bob Lewit, 19th Maintenance Squadron Commander, with the 19th Air Refueling Group award for logistics officer of the year. Lewit was also recently declared vice president of the Middle Georgia Chapter.
“I’m looking forward to the opportunity to work with the association and learn from senior leadership as well as mentor junior leaders to devel-

op tomorrow’s Air Force Today,” he said.
The LOA is an organization of professionals dedicated to readiness and sustainability of aerospace forces. The Association has more than 1,400 members comprised of military officers and civilian employees that work in the logistics related field. For more information on the LOA contact Lewit at 926-3047.

MXS

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is part of Air Force Materiel Command, while the 19th MXS is part of Air Mobility Command.
“Basically there are two levels of inspection going on simultaneously,” said Porter, “and the result is significantly less downtime for the aircraft.”
The 19th MXS only works on Air Mobility Command C-5 aircraft, though other

commands are considering similar work on their C-5s.
“Our objective is to return mission ready aircraft to the home station,” said Porter. “Currently our aircraft average 7-8 days before their first mission, as compared to the reserve C-5 aircraft that average 39-58 days.”
39-58 days downtime at the home station translates into a lot of lost flying hours for the aircraft, according to Porter.

“Out of the last two aircraft we’ve returned, one flew 87 hours in 30 days and the other 67 hours in 30 days,” said Porter. “We’re getting a lot more aircraft flying hours out of the C-5.”
The squadron’s customers, Dover AFB and Travis AFB, are also impressed with the results.
“They are very happy with the product,” said Porter. “Now they can turn around and fly the aircraft much sooner.”

The Galaxy’s flying hours translates into massive movements of equipment and people, making the global reach and global power asset more flexible, according to Porter.
However, more C-5 flying hours isn’t the only 19th MXS success.
“The work we do here is massive savings on the maintainers at the home station,” said Porter. “Dover AFB has a backlog in their sheet metal shop and their folks are

working 12 hours per day, 6 day per week. To get an aircraft back from depot and not have to put that many days and that many man hours into it is a big help to that unit.”
Coordination and teamwork is the key to their success, according to Porter
The 19th MXS works around the program depot maintenance.
“They understand how we fit into the flow of things and what value we add to the air-

craft and we understand what their role is and how they add value to the aircraft,” said Porter. “It’s an understanding of each other’s relationship and what we can do as a team.”
With 300 million in savings for 2001, Porter cites his organization as a fabulous way to do business.
“We have a team of 75 folks in the squadron and it takes everyone to get it done,” he said.

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